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London
Labour's Case
on
Redistribution

RE-DISTRIBUTION: LONDON LABOUR'S CASE

By D. H. DAINES, Acting Secretary, London Labour Party

BEFORE the war, it was apparent that variations in the sizes of London's electorates were greater than could reasonably be defended. The 1939 registers showed one or two constituencies with 24,000 electors each, while another had four times as many. Each of these constituencies was represented in Parliament by one M.P.

The average number of electors represented by one M.P. was, on 1939 figures, 45,432 in London; for the whole country the quota was 53,430. On the 1939 prevailing quota, London was entitled to only 51 M.P.s instead of 60.

So when Boundary Commissions were set up, a year or so back, to recommend a redistribution of seats, it was obvious that London must be ready for a reduction in the number of its M.P.s.

If the present proposals are so much worse than we hoped, it is because the terms of reference to the Boundary Commission included a phrase of whose effect nobody could be quite sure.

Operative Phrase

This phrase was to the effect that "so far as is practicable" metropolitan boundary boroughs should not be overridden, nor should metropolitan boroughs be fragmented. We were perhaps guilty of wishful thinking in fixing our attention upon this provision without giving enough weight to the qualifying term "so far as is practicable." This rule applies not only to Metropolitan Boroughs, but also to counties, county boroughs, and, to some extent, to county districts throughout the country.

It must be obvious, after a moment's thought, that it would be impossible for the Boundary Commission to operate this rule absolutely throughout the country without greatly complicating their task and without largely increasing the total number of M.P.s. The qualifying phrase—"so far as is practicable"—thereby became a most effective limitation on the application of this rule.

The Boundary Commission have evidently come to the opinion that on the 1945 register figures, London (other than the City) is entitled to no more than 40 Members of Parliament.

Leaving aside the argument, for the moment, whether London is being justly treated in being allowed no more than 40 M.P.s, the distribution proposed by the Commission is not prejudicial to our political interests.

If political conditions remain the same as they were in 1945, the proposed redistribution should give the Labour Party the same proportion of Labour M.P.s to the whole that it already enjoys.

This is not to say that several of the new London constituencies are not open to great objection on grounds of convenience and geography. Local Labour Parties throughout London are examining the proposals with great care and will be sending in to the Commission their objections and suggestions.

The Objections

I ought perhaps to say a word about the kind of objections that the London Labour Party can put forward to the proposals. We are collecting particulars of the objections that each local Labour Party, or groups of Parties will make.

Some of them will be in conflict with the submissions of other local Labour Parties. Some of them may well be prejudicial to the interests of the Party in London as a whole. All of them taken together will, I expect, require a greater total number of London M.P.s than it is reasonable to expect the Commission to agree to.

We shall have to look at London as a whole. We shall make general objections (including the placing on record of our discontent with the 1945 register as a basis). We shall emphasise the difficulties made by the proposals for those whose duty it is, under our democratic system, to keep the people informed about issues of political importance. We shall point to the great confusion of constituency and municipal boundaries and the harm this may do to securing proper public interest in international and municipal issues.

We shall call attention to the rule which asked the Commission to observe borough boundaries, if at all possible,

and we shall criticise their almost complete disregard of this rule.

Then we shall incorporate into our submissions the objections and proposals of Local Labour Parties so far as they are compatible with each other and with the general interests of London Labour as a whole.

The London Labour Party intends to press as hard as it possibly can upon the Home Secretary, upon Parliament, and upon the Parliamentary Labour Party, that later figures than those of 1945 should be taken as the basis for allocating Parliamentary seats, for London.

A Good Case

We have a good case. London during the war was the area, above all, that the Government wished to see evacuated by those who had no compelling need to remain here. Hundreds of thousands of our people went out, and in so doing, fell in line with the Government's declared policy of dispersal. Many had to leave London to take up work of national importance. Dockers, for example, were transferred from London to other ports in distant parts of the country.

The qualifying date for the October

1945, register—June 30 of that year—can provide no sort of realistic index of the number of people that will be in London when the next election comes, or how they will be distributed. On June 30, 1945, the war was still on, and hundreds of thousands of Londoners (who have since come back) were still scattered over the country.

Already, the 1946 Register looks like showing a 12 per cent. increase in London's electorate. The population of London went up by nearly half a million between June, 1945, and March, 1946, and more are coming back every month. More still would readily come back but for the absence of housing accommodation.

The case for postponing London redistribution—and this applies, too, to other badly blitzed areas—until the 1946, or, better still, the 1947 electorate figures can be established is an overwhelming one.

This, as I have said, is a matter for Parliament. The Boundary Commission were tied to the 1945 register by their terms of reference. I believe that Parliament will sympathise with London's point of view if it can be brought before them with strength and conviction.

Is it a Fair Deal to England?

By JOHN TAYLOR, J.P., Scottish Secretary of the Labour Party

The following paragraph appeared in the leading article in last month's *Labour Organiser*:

"Because of the undertaking given to Wales and Scotland that their total Parliamentary representation shall not be reduced, the Boundary Commission (for England) seem to be cutting the representation of the English Counties for the purpose of bringing the total Parliamentary seats to somewhere near its old level of 615."

As the above statement seems to be perfectly true, I would like to examine its implications, making the claim that the English Commission, from the evidence before us at the time of writing, appears to be too rigidly adhering to the 615 deadline and sacrificing other principles of the Act in the process.

The House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act, 1944, lays it down in general terms that the four Boun-

dary Commissions should aim at producing a House of Commons of 615 members including the 12 University seats. The third schedule of the Act goes into detail in specifying how this total should be territorially allocated, thus:

Great Britain: not substantially greater or less than 591.

Scotland: not less than 71.

Wales: not less than 35.

Northern Ireland: 12.

The Boundary Commission for Scotland has so far completed its work as to make it clear that they will produce 71 constituencies, which, allowing for the division of one double-Membered constituency into two separate seats, is the same number as before. I have not seen reports of the progress of the Commission for Wales, but I expect they will also produce their pre-Act number of 35. Northern Ireland's Commission is specifically in-

structed to produce 12 constituencies, so it has no choice but to comply.

This means that the English Commission, if it adheres rigidly to the 615 total, has to confine itself to 485 constituencies.

If we work this out in the terms of average electorates, we find the following:

| Country | Approx. Electorates | No. of Members | Approx. | per Constituency |
|----------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | | | Average Electorate | |
| Scotland | 3,450,000 | 71 | 49,750 | |
| Wales | 1,760,000 | 35 | 50,200 | |
| England | 27,000,000 | 485 | 55,700 | |

There are geographical, historical and constitutional reasons why Scotland and Wales should continue to have their traditional numerical representation, and no one who has studied these reasons wishes to alter the agreed basis, but I (who am not an Englishman) do not see any tenable reason why the average English constituency should have ten per cent. more electors than the average Scottish or Welsh constituency just because of adherence to the idea that the number 615 has some magic quality and must not be exceeded.

640 Seats?

The Act does enable the English Commission to avoid the rigid application of the 485 total. The words "not substantially greater or less" can surely be interpreted to mean precisely what they say, and if the English Commission produced the present number of 510 English constituencies (making a total House of 640 members) no one would complain, and the average English constituency at 53,700 would still be approximately 3,000 above the average Scottish and Welsh constituency.

The present Parliament has proved that a House of Commons of 640 members is not too cumbersome. It has done its work with greater dispatch and with more prolific results than any of its smaller predecessors. Six hundred and forty constituencies would be an increase of four per cent., which I suggest is "not substantial."

I have stated that the Commission, by too strictly adhering to its suggested limit is sacrificing other principles in the Act. In the third schedule, section 1 (a) the following Rules are laid down:

"(i) No county or part thereof shall

be included in a constituency which includes the whole or part of any other county or the whole or part of a county borough or metropolitan borough.

(ii) No county borough or any part thereof shall be included in a constituency which includes the whole or part of any other county borough or the whole or part of a metropolitan borough.

(iii) No metropolitan borough or any part thereof shall be included in a constituency which includes the whole or part of any other metropolitan borough.

(iv) No county district shall be included partly in one constituency and partly in another."

Ridden Rough-Shod

The Boundary Commission appears to have ridden rough-shod over these rules to produce the smallest permissible number of M.P.'s. It is true that there is a permissive Clause allowing departure from these rules "if special geographical considerations . . . render such a departure desirable" (3rd schedule, S.6.), but some of the Commission's departures are clearly not due to geographical considerations, but to their apparent desire not to overtake the suggested limit.

Indeed, they have so strained the "special geographical considerations" option in favour of a largely self-imposed maximum that many geographically awkward constituencies have been produced. When it has come to a conflict between the Local Government Boundaries rule and the numerical rule, it would seem that the former is being ignored and the latter regarded as of greater importance. It is my submission that the rule about total numbers is less important than the rule about natural, traditional and reasonable boundaries.

I think Englishmen will be perfectly justified in objecting to the tortuous proposals put forward in cases like that of Norwich and Reading, and I do not think it was the intention of the Act to cause so many peculiar and unnatural alignments as are now emerging.

If it is claimed that it is none of my business I will reply gently that it seems a little awry that it should take, on the average, 5,000 more Englishmen to make an M.P. than it does Scotsmen or Welshmen.

East Midlands "Cleaned Up"

By TOM BAXTER, District Organiser, East Midlands

The Parliamentary Boundary Commission has treated the East Midland nine counties as five areas and announced its recommendations for four of them. Only the Leicestershire Parties await knowledge of their fate.

The wide rural stretches of Lincolnshire, with its three Administrative Counties and two Parliamentary Boroughs, have, in the words of the Boundary Commission, been "treated as a continuous area." Revolutionary proposals are the result. The number of constituencies is reduced from nine to eight, and faced with the fact that the number of electors, within two of the three Counties, are insufficient to provide for the same number of constituencies within their borders, the County boundaries between Kesteven and Lindsey have been ignored. Part of Lindsey is now grouped with part of Kesteven in the new Sleaford division, and other parts of Kesteven go with Rutland. As the latter provision has operated since 1918, in the present Rutland and Stamford Division, the Commission apparently has had no qualms in maintaining the practice in 1946. The words "so far as is practicable," in Section 6 of the Third Schedule of the Rules for the Distribution of Seats, have, of course, provided the Commission with its excuse to depart from "the strict application" of its rules.

Unwieldy Size

To reduce the number of seats from nine to eight has, of course, made some of the County constituencies monstrous in more senses than one. Gainsborough, never small in area or easy to work, now stretches from the extreme borders of the County on the Trent to the seaside resort of Cleethorpes. The Horncastle Division disappears and part of it goes to increase the overwhelmingly large division of Louth, the rest to the new division of Sleaford. The Grantham division disappears and Grantham Borough and the large rural districts of South Kesteven are grouped with Rutland, plus what was previously in the Rutland and Stamford Division. Grimsby

passes Cleethorpes to Gainsborough but takes in all its municipal boundaries. Lincoln extends to its Municipal Boundary. Holland with Boston is renamed "Holland" and maintains its old area. Brigg remains as before.

The chief problems for our Parties in Lincolnshire are therefore created by geography, and, despite them, readers may be interested to learn that the Divisional Parties have decided not to oppose the Commissioner's Proposals. Firstly, because it is believed we stand a chance of winning four or five of the eight seats whilst we only secured three of the old nine, and secondly, because two of the divisions are given good bases from which to work the new divisions.

Logical Job

Whilst Lincolnshire loses a seat, Nottinghamshire is given ten instead of nine. The additional one, to be called "Ashfield," is one the Tories will hardly dare to fight. Certain of the new boundaries admittedly dim our prospects in Rushcliffe, where Mrs. Florence Paton, M.P., defeated Ashton, the Chairman of the Tory Party, at the General Election. On the other hand, Newark, a seat we have never won, becomes reasonably safe for Labour.

The intriguing change in this County is in its relationship to the Parliamentary Borough of Nottingham. After wisely cleaning up the City boundaries the Commission takes two wards in the Borough, adds them to the Beeston and Stapleford Urban District, and forms a division to be called, as in the past, "Nottingham South." Three-fifths of the electorate will be in the Urban District. It is interesting to compare this shift of part of a County (note, however, that it is a complete local government area) to a Parliamentary Borough, with the Commission's proposals to transfer two Norwich City wards to a County division. It must be said, however, that the Boundary Commission has made a logical job of the four Nottingham Parliamentary Borough constituencies.

Here the changes are not violent and everybody agrees that they are reasonable with the exception of those between Northampton Borough and Daventry. After again sensibly cleaning up the Borough boundaries—six wards of Northampton were divided between three divisions, and in one case one ward divided between all three—the Commission gets out of its difficulty of having more electors in Northampton than required, by transferring two complete wards to Daventry.

The only dispute is that it has failed to choose the two wards most accessible to Daventry. Since it is generally agreed, between all parties, as to which two wards should go to Daventry it is hoped that the Commission will accept the representations to be made.

Derbyshire Heartburning

The Derbyshire Parties only too fully realise the proposals of the Commission have caused much heartburning. The trouble is not that we cannot win all the divisions, as in 1945, but that the changes mean a shifting of centres of party direction and leadership.

Notwithstanding that the Commission helpfully relieves West Derbyshire of nine parishes in the cleaning up of Rural district boundaries, the constituency, compared with others, is unreasonably large. The problem is to dovetail rural with urban areas and avoid making Labour seats doubtful propositions. This is the Party's difficulty in making proposals to the Commission which would make West Derbyshire more tolerable from the division is certainly however left with about 20,000 less electors than the other constituencies.

Derby Borough loses its double-membered status and its two divisions, North and South, are given sensible boundaries. Derbyshire South, with its old electorate of 104,000, disappears and is divided between Belper and a division to be called "Long Eaton."

The Conclusions

The three divisions in the North, Chesterfield, Clay Cross and North East, are given rough handling by the strict application of the rule of the Commission not to divide a local government area between two or more divisions. These three Parties have asked the Commission to let them stay as at present. The Commission proposes the abolition of Clay Cross and the creation of a new division, Bolsover, an even safer seat than the old Clay Cross, if that can be imagined! Then it pulls Staveley Urban out of North East and adds it to Chesterfield after it has taken the rural parts of the latter and handed them to North East. The tidy mind of the Commission!

Conclusions! (1) If the Commission can "make" the figures for each constituency, avoiding the splitting of Local Government areas, it stands by the arithmetical conclusions at all cost.

(2) D.L.P.s in developing areas will in future have to co-operate more with their neighbouring parties if they want to ensure the maximum Labour representation. Parties cannot afford to forget that the boundaries of divisions are to be reviewed every three years at the minimum and seven years at the maximum.

(3) Scotland and Wales may soon have to contend with a Home Rule Movement for England!

(4) The Commission has done a good job of work.

Candidates Endorsed

Northwich: Mr. E. Ferynough; Bury: Mr. C. E. G. Catlin; Darwen: Mr. Ronald Haines; Daventry: Mr. F. Wynne Davies; Anglesey: Mr. Cledwyn Hughes; Inverness-shire: Mr. Neil G. Maclean; Orkney and Shetland: Mr. Prophet Smith.

Co-operative Party candidatures running in association with the Labour Party—Banbury: Mr. C. R. Fenton; Howdenshire: Mr. Tom Neville.

*Do all your
KEY WORKERS
read the LABOUR
ORGANISER?*

A New Workers' Film Association

By Ald. JOSEPH REEVES, M.P.

An outline of the important developments which among other advantages, will make available to local Labour Parties a wide range of film shows at a low cost.

In the course of the next few weeks, the Workers' Film Association Ltd. will assume a new form. In future it will be known as the National Film Association.

This new body will be an amalgamation of the W.F.A. and the film organisation of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd. There will be formed a National Committee, consisting of three representatives each of the Labour Party, the Trades Union Congress, English and Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Societies, Co-operative Union and one representative of the National Association of Co-operative Education Committees. This Committee will place programmes of film work before the new technical body to be formed for this purpose and the Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd. will finance its activities.

Naturally, it hopes to increase considerably the scope of the work which the two bodies to be amalgamated previously undertook, and I am revealing no secret when I state that it is hoped to proceed with a programme of film production and to establish eventually 30 mobile film units in carefully defined areas to exhibit these and other social and documentary films dealing with the great problems of our modern social democracy.

Cheaper Film Shows

In the past, the W.F.A. had to make economic charges for film shows, but in the future it is hoped to provide all the film education and propaganda required at cost price or even free of charge.

Then it is proposed to provide a number of daylight travelling cinemas which will tell the story of our three great democratic movements from village to village and from town to town. During a General Election, the film units will act not only for film showing purposes, but will be equipped with loud speakers to supplement equipment already possessed by various workers' organisations.

All this will need money and the new organisation will not have to exist with a miserable share capital of £2,000, as has the Workers' Film Association, Ltd. In time, it may be pos-

sible to distribute an international workers' newsreel which will record the most important events in the lives of the workers all over the world.

We are proud to be associated with this new body. It is the first of its kind in the world. For the first time in history the three great democratic movements, the political, trade union and consumers' movements have united to undertake a functional task.

Appoint a Film Officer

In the days ahead all progressive bodies will use the film increasingly for all types of educational work. It is now universally recognised that people assimilate knowledge much more effectively through the eye than through any other sense. Visual aids to all types of public instruction are being employed to force home the message of the written and spoken word and the democratic movements cannot lag behind in this respect.

Labour Parties are urged to appoint a film officer in every locality who will make himself or herself responsible for the organisation of propaganda by film shows.

There are many fine films which deal with our great social problems. Paul Rötha has made a great film entitled "Land of Promise," which runs for one hour. It is a story of the terrible housing conditions in this country and the way to plan future building. Then the "Daily Herald" has had a film made on housing, entitled "Homes for the People." Films dealing with the growth of the great Co-operative Movement, such as "Song of the People" and "Men of Rochdale" can also be shown, and films being made for the Trade Union Movement will soon be ready for exhibition to add to the jubilee film of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, entitled "Unity is Strength."

So we can now say, that although soon the W.F.A., after eight years of pioneering work, will be dead, it will live again in the new National Film Association to undertake tasks it could not possibly have performed even in its wildest dreams, in the form it then took.

Make Use of the Local Press!

Here is an extract from a new booklet, "Putting It Over," which is being published by Socialist Publicity Services, a group of Labour journalists and publicity experts, in an effort to assist local Labour Parties and others in the Labour Movement to improve their publicity and public relations techniques. Further extracts from the booklet, which will be published shortly, will be given in our next issue.

The majority of local newspaper proprietors are Conservative. Many local newspaper editors may be Conservative. Few local newspaper reporters are concerned about the political colour of the news they print so long as they can have easy access to news and can be assured of its accuracy.

Transcending these considerations are two facts.

The first is that the local newspaper, and especially the local weekly newspaper circulating between 5,000 and 40,000 copies, is now the only type of newspaper in which journalistic opinion finds anything like free expression to-day.

The second is that the local newspaper which fails to reflect faithfully the activities of the local community or permits the prejudices of proprietor or editor to distort its presentation of news is more vulnerable to attack than any other. It can be exposed easily; many local people will have intimate knowledge of its distortions. It can be challenged effectively; no large capital sum is involved in launching a rival newspaper.

Taken together, these facts and considerations mean that your Local Labour Party can command as much space in the columns of the local newspaper as it deserves. The word "deserves" is used advisedly. Your Party can have no valid complaint against any local newspaper if it flouts the simple rules of journalistic presentation of news and makes the insertion of Labour news difficult for busy reporters and sub-editors.

What is News

News is not publicity. News is incident and events. Labour news is the product of Party activity. Publicity, in relation to our immediate problem, is that puff for the local M.P. or that write-up for the local Conservative Party which reflects the bias of the newspaper. As a rule, this sort of publicity is valueless to its subject, however flattering it may be to his vanity.

For the local newspaper, names make news. Thus news should be personalised as much as possible. Appointment of officials, with their full names and addresses, are good copy. You are selecting Parliamentary or local candidates? Before the Conference, obtain biographical details and photographs. They are wanted for the Party files anyway. And the "show" given to the selected candidates in the local newspaper will be improved enormously if the news can be decked out with a "Who's Who" and a photograph.

Remember too—and this is important, also, for the election address—that a good photograph is better than a good likeness. If a candidate can provide a good photograph that is also a good likeness, well and good. But few of the readers, whether of the local newspaper or the election address, may see the candidate in the flesh. A bad photograph makes bad news!

Be Brief

When the local newspaper begins to trust you to provide accurate news about people—accurate, in this context, meaning that the facts are right and the names spelled properly—your invasion of its news columns can be extended quite a lot. You have engaged a national speaker for a big meeting? Ask Transport House to supply you with a brief biography and offer the editor a story, not about the meeting, but about the distinguished visitor.

That clever daughter of a branch treasurer has won an essay competition? Tell the local newspaper, mentioning incidentally the association with your Party. Don't worry if the name of your Party does not appear in the printed paragraph; the branch treasurer's clever daughter might not like it anyway! Your job is to get Labour people talked about as people, and to become, for the local newspaper, the eyes and ears of the whole

Labour community. Thereafter, you will find it comparatively easy to get hard political news printed.

The physical appearance of your copy will often decide its chances "of making the paper." It must be short, since newspapers are not printed on elastic; it can be short if you write as simply and clearly as you talk, cutting out unnecessary words and avoiding any pretensions to the high-falutin'.

Names should always be written in capital letters thus: Mr. JOHN SMITH, secretary of the HOMETOWN Branch of SUNNYSIDE Labour Party . . . If possible, your copy should be typed.

Always, it should be written on one side of the paper only. There should be a normal double typewriter space between each line. There should be a wide margin on the left-hand side upon which the sub-editor can insert his instructions to the printer.

Timing Your Copy

Not less important than the appearance of your copy is its timing. Let us assume that your local newspaper consists of eight pages and "goes to press" (or, as the journalist would say, "is put to bed") at 12 noon on Thursday. Obviously, the last minute at which your news can be handled will be 9 a.m. on Thursday, or even earlier.

The whole paper, however, will not be put into type on Thursday morning, even if all of it is "put to bed" then. Probably, only pages 1 and 8 will be "open" on Thursday morning, the front page for news and the back page for advertisements; so that, unless your news is regarded by the editor as "big" it will not "make the paper" at all unless he receives it before Thursday.

On such a newspaper, the normal schedule might be as follows: Tuesday, pages 2 and 7 sent to printers; Wednesday morning, pages 3 and 6 sent to printers; Wednesday afternoon, pages 4 and 5 sent to printers; Thursday morning, pages 1 and 8 sent to printers. (You can tell what pages go in pairs by adding One to the total number of pages, then taking the pairs that equal the total plus One. Thus: 1 and 8 are nine; 2 and 7 are nine; and so on).

(To be continued)

Talking Point

Are We Neglecting the Countryside?

By Coun. John H. Underwood, Leeds.

Whilst holidaying in Westmorland recently I was, naturally, interested in the people's reactions towards the Government, favourably or otherwise.

I found quite a large number who had voted Labour, and were hopeful from the long term point of view. For the present they feel very much neglected. The rejoicings of July last year are now forgotten and the pioneers of Labour in the countryside are beginning to feel that they are forgotten also.

One reason for the formation of Regional Councils was to co-ordinate activities between Industrial and Rural areas. If we are to maintain our strength in Parliament and country, we must have representation on the smallest Parish Council, in addition to the Borough and Urban councils, and let us remember that it needs determined men and women to declare their politics in the countryside. Surely our Regional Councils can set machinery in motion that will touch these Labour supporters and give them a feeling that they are not out of the fight.

Give them an opportunity of joining the party. Further, let our loud speaker vans, with good Socialist speakers, visit these areas periodically to enlighten them on Government policy. Hold meetings in the nearest County towns. I am sure many good Socialist speakers from the stronger areas will assist to the advantage of our comrades who hold the fort in these difficult areas.

Agriculture and industry are both essential to national progress, and any efforts made to bring about closer relationships are well worth while.

Profile by JACK CUTTER

No. 4, CLEM JONES

Shropshire Lad Moves South

Twenty-two years ago, when the first of the two hamstrung Labour Governments was in precarious office, when the late Egerton Wake was National Agent and when Party Headquarters were in Eccleston Square, the Party decided to complete its team of District Organisers by appointing one for the South-west, that scenically beautiful but politically sterile district which includes the Counties of Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire.

The news that Councillor Clement C. Jones, of Smethwick, had been appointed was received with consternation by the Smethwick Trades and Labour Council, who were thus losing a first-class Secretary and Agent, and with mild interest by the residents of the above Counties to whom the name Clem Jones meant little or nothing. Now his name is known and respected from Poole to Penzance, and is still affectionately remembered in the Black Country.

Those were the days when the work of a D.O. was 95 per cent. propagandist and 5 per cent. administrative. The ratio has altered so much in these 22 years that it is now practically 100 per cent. administrative, but Clem Jones has been equally at home in both spheres.

Imperturbable

Indeed, there are few spheres and no circumstances I have been able to discover in which Clem Jones is at a loss. Imperturbable, deliberate, unruffled—these are the adjectives which spring to the mind in seeking to describe him. There is calm, poised deliberation in his every action. He is the most restful of companions.

He is also the most joyous of friends, for, if his actions are deliberate, his mind is lightning quick and his wit sparkles as a rare gem. He is one of the few people with whom one could go for a long walk in the country and enjoy every minute of his company whether he chose to be silent or to talk.

On the slender evidence that he once worked in West Bromwich, Clem claims to be "a Blackcountryman by

training and conviction," but he has a wider background. He comes of Shropshire peasant and craftsman stock which possibly accounts for his love of his garden.

In the early years of the century the George Dixon School at Birmingham regarded him as one of its brightest pupils, probably with justification, for he had not long left it when he joined the I.L.P. at 16.

A year later he made his first speech from a box at a Birmingham street corner and the speech was so successful that he was never permitted to remain long away from Midland propaganda platforms for many years afterwards.

Memorable Election

During those years he was Secretary of Edgbaston L.R.C. for a period and itinerant, push-bike propagandist and general handyman for the Socialist Movement of the West Midlands. By 1918 he had settled in Smethwick and had the choice of becoming either Candidate or Agent for the Borough. He chose the latter and in a memorable contest in the General Election of that year, conducted the campaign which resulted in the triumph of his Candidate, ironmoulder Jack Davison, over Christabel Pankhurst and the W.S.P.U.

A few months afterwards he won a seat in a Borough Council by-election and quadrupled his first majority in 1922. He remained a Councillor until going to the South-west in 1924.

Ever since he has kept his steady course in the six counties, persistently, effectively and fluently putting the Party's case and tending the Party's machine in Britain's most difficult area until he has built for himself by the force of his personality a reputation which any of us might envy, and which induced the "Western Morning News" to describe him a few years ago as one of the most popular men in the South-west.

As an amendment, I move that the words "South-west" be deleted and the words "Labour Movement" substituted. The amendment is carried unanimously.

HAVE YOU TRIED THE SILK-SCREEN PROCESS?

Coloured Posters That Attract

By COLIN MACPHEE

For those whose contact with the technical aspects of publicity is very slight, the term "silk-screen printing" evokes a whimsical sort of curiosity.

This process, as the curious name implies, is based on the use of silk—silk upon which an ordinary paper stencil is affixed. The principle of the process is that of simple stencilling, and although silk-screen printing remains a hand-operated craft, a high technical level and speed of output has been evolved.

Since its introduction to this country in the 1930's, silk-screen printing has won for itself a special place among the other printing processes by virtue of its suitability for short runs of designed and illustrated posters, window-bills and notices. When a bold and colourful poster is required, in quantities of less than, say, 500, silk-screen printing is the practical and economical substitute for lithography and other expensive forms of colour printing.

There is absolute freedom of choice with regard to the type of design which can be reproduced on the screen and, provided it is possible to cut a paper stencil from the "original," one may reproduce anything from a human face to a line of small lettering.

To the Labour Party publicist there are many uses for silk-screen printing:

Publicising Meetings

Meetings for which 100-250 posters are required can be cheaply and effectively publicised by the use of one or two-colour silk-screen posters.

If the organisation holds regular events, a distinguished *designed* stock-sheet can be printed in one colour, with varying details of subsequent events over-printed in black letter-press.

Candidates' photographs can be used in the form of a half-tone block combined with a silk-screen printed background.

Standard Banners for Trade Union Branches and divisional Labour Parties, can also be designed for silk-

screen printing, and made available at economic rates because of the larger quantities.

The Cost

The Co-operative Art Service, of 143, King's Road, London, S.W.3, are specialists in this silk-screen poster work and their approximate charges are:

| Crown | 50 | 100 | 250 | 500 |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| 1 colour | 1 3 5 | 2 18 0 | 4 3 5 | 7 5 4 |
| 2 colour | 1 13 4 | 3 1 8 | 5 13 4 | 8 3 4 |
| 3 colour | 2 16 8 | 4 11 8 | 8 3 4 | 10 13 4 |
| 4 colour | 3 10 0 | 5 3 4 | 9 6 8 | 12 0 0 |

| Double Crown | 50 | 100 | 250 | 500 |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| 1 colour | 1 15 0 | 3 2 6 | 6 5 0 | 10 18 0 |
| 2 colour | 2 10 0 | 4 12 6 | 8 10 0 | 12 5 0 |
| 3 colour | 4 5 0 | 6 17 6 | 12 5 0 | 16 0 0 |
| 4 colour | 5 5 0 | 7 15 0 | 14 0 0 | 18 0 0 |

| Quad Crown | 50 | 100 | 250 | 500 |
|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| 1 colour | 2 5 0 | 3 7 6 | 7 0 0 | 10 18 0 |
| 2 colour | 2 16 0 | 5 0 0 | 8 15 0 | 13 0 0 |
| 3 colour | 4 12 6 | 7 5 0 | 13 0 0 | 16 0 0 |
| 4 colour | 5 15 0 | 8 12 0 | 15 5 0 | 18 15 0 |

In addition to the foregoing, a charge is made for the actual laying-out and lettering on the original. The charges vary between about 15/- (for laying out a simple lettering job) to about 7 guineas for a well-considered full colour design.

Colorsigns, of the Myrtles, Sidford, Sidmouth, Devon, are also anxious to produce small runs of silk-screen posters for local parties. This organisation is run by a young ex-service-man, A. S. Colquhoun, and their work is warmly recommended by Marylebone and other local parties.

Their price list is: Size 15 in. x 20 on medium weight machine-glazed white poster paper (no extra charge for laying-out, etc.):

| | 50 Copies | 100 Copies |
|---------------|-----------|------------|
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| One colour | .. 1 6 6 | .. 2 6 0 |
| Two colours | .. 1 19 0 | .. 3 3 0 |
| Three colours | .. 2 12 0 | .. 4 2 0 |
| Four colours | .. 3 4 6 | .. 4 19 0 |

Additional sizes, colours, and quantities quoted on request.

Summer School Summing-Up

By REG. UNDERHILL

Last month I commented on the students who were then preparing for the Party's first National Summer School. The School is now over and we can take stock.

Most students were attending their first Summer School and many arrived with very mixed feelings. These were soon dispelled and within a short while all were "at home." A "get-together" social was arranged on the Saturday evening opening each week, and it was clearly evident from the outset that a fine spirit would prevail throughout the duration of the School.

Youthful Heckler

The School sessions commenced on Sunday morning with a spirited lecture by Alderman Charles Key, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, who spoke on the Re-organisation of Local Government.

The excellent calibre of the more youthful students was soon in evidence, particularly by the early close questioning by a young lad of sixteen and a half from Somerset—Peter Stephens, son of the Wells Constituency Agent. Other Sunday lectures were given by Stanley Evans, M.P., on Foreign Affairs, and Jim Griffiths on Social Security.

Sunday and Monday evenings were devoted to lectures and demonstrations on the technique and conduct of Discussion Groups given by staff from the Bureau of Current Affairs. These provoked much interest and discussion.

From Monday to Thursday the School divided into Groups for intensive study. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day there were lectures and questions in each Group, and again between 5 and 7 p.m. the Groups had lively discussions on important problems raised during the morning.

The Groups and tutors were:

Party Organisation: Lord Shepherd and Harold Croft.

Local Government: Mr. Chorley, Miss J. Copeland and Morgan Phillips.

Home Policy: M. Young.

International Policy: Denis Healey and Ashley Bramall, M.P.

Each Group covered a truly comprehensive syllabus and students expressed appreciation of the vast amount of detail covered. General approval was given the opportunity for discussing particular problems in the evening sessions of the Groups. For instance, the Party Organisation Group discussed such matters as Propaganda and Publicity, the League of Youth, Women's Sections, votes at 18 and similar subjects.

The concluding Friday sessions were devoted to reports given by students appointed by the respective Groups. These outlined the work covered by each Group, their conclusions, and also included constructive criticism on the arrangements for the Groups both for study and discussion. The resultant discussion by the students ranged over the entire field of Party Education and many helpful suggestions were given for the organisation of future Schools. Unanimous appreciation was given the decision of the National Executive to inaugurate National Summer Schools, and there was a general plea for their extension in the coming years.

Youth Meetings

The School programme may appear heavy, but this was not all! Two short meetings were arranged each week to enable members of the League of Youth, and others interested in youth organisation, to raise points of difficulty and to put helpful comments on this vital problem. For two weeks Harold Croft ran a special Speakers' Class for beginners only; these were held for 30 minutes before the Groups started work each morning and they proved extremely valuable and were much appreciated. The fruits of Harold Croft's labours were evident long before the close of each week!

Summer Schools have undoubtedly come to stay as part of the Party's educational work. Three are planned for next year and already Constituency Parties and the Trade Unions are being invited to make reservation for scholarship places. These should be sent in by January 1, 1947.

Points of organisation put forward by students included the following: Should the Schools remain national in character or be confined to certain regions only? The general view of the students at Bangor was that they should preserve the national character. Should the Schools be confined to one subject only? The majority believed this would not make for the best type of School. Should the Groups be divided into advanced and beginners' sections? Some thought to do so would be an advantage, but others were of the opinion that the exchange of views between both classes of students within one Group secures the greatest advantage.

These and other points will be thrashed out, and within a short while full details of next year's Schools will be circulated. One thing is certain—the 1946 Summer School at Bangor marks an important stage in Party development and three hundred students are now back in their constituencies with greatly increased knowledge and enhanced enthusiasm to aid their Party work.

Municipal Contests

You'll find
the point in
**Conduct of
Local Elections**

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**From the Finance Dept.,
The Labour Party,
Transport House,
Smith Square, S.W.1**

TORIES HAVE BIG PLANS

North Staffordshire Tories are prepared to spend money without stint in order to regain power, according to a "top secret" report of the North Staffordshire Political Union which has come into our possession.

This highly confidential memorandum reveals that a man and woman organiser are to be appointed to each constituency and most have already taken up their duties; a Journalist-cum-Public Relations Officer is to be appointed to ensure, among other things, "a constant flow of press 'correspondence'; two staff speakers are to be engaged; and two loud speaker vans with equipment are to be purchased.

Another intriguing item is that ward secretaries are to be appointed in all the City wards. It does not say whether these are paid posts, but adds "by these appointments organisation at ward and polling district level will be developed and accelerated."

"Progressive" candidates have been adopted by the Union in many wards and "it is our intention to contest all wards in the City except those where a sitting Independent councillor seeks re-election."

In addition, municipal committees are being formed in all wards. It is estimated that the salaries alone in this grandiose reorganisation scheme will cost £3,000 a year.

It is clear that Staffordshire Labour Parties will have their work cut out to counter this expensive Conservative campaign, but we have no doubt that plans are well in hand for doing so.

It would be interesting to find out from other areas if big Tory re-organisation plans are afoot in their districts also.

Decision on Associate Members

By R. STANTON, General Secretary, National Union Labour Organisers and Election Agents

It is unfortunate that these notes have to be written so much in advance of their publication, for after they are written and before publication a number of interesting and important Union meetings will have been held, precluding more than an anticipatory note of the main discussions.

Yorkshire District are holding a meeting at which I hope to be present, and which will be followed by a dinner in honour of Lord Shepherd, now retired as National Agent of the Party. The Yorkshire Agents will be making a presentation in token of their esteem and affection. I shall be pleased to associate with this function on behalf of the whole of the Union membership, whose tribute and esteem will be marked—perhaps belatedly but none the less sincerely—at the time of the next Annual Conference.

The agenda for the District meeting will include a discussion on the half-yearly reports made by Agents to the Party Head Office, copies of which have been sent to the District Secretary, and in addition there will be a discussion on the results of the General Secretary's questionnaire regarding Agents' Conditions. Yorkshire will, I am sure make its full contribution to the efforts of the Union Executive to prepare a realisable Charter for Agents.

Associate Members

South Wales and South Western District at their recent meeting considered the expansion of Union membership to cover Trade Union Officials, Party Secretaries and so on. They have come to the conclusion that the problems involved must limit our efforts for the present time, to an Associate Members' section, to provide for those persons seeking to qualify through the Study and Examination Scheme for Agents Certificates.

The District is probably affected more than others by the travel problem in attending District Meetings, and this has prompted a proposal for the reallocation of Union Funds as between the National Executive and the Districts to overcome the difficulties.

Should we as a Union seek differen-

tial rates of salary for those with varying responsibilities, for instance Borough Party Agents? This is raised in a proposition of South Wales that action be taken by the Executive in certain cases. By the time these notes are read I have no doubt the Executive will have decided the point, but I am very reluctant to anticipate their decision on such a thorny point.

Two Live Wires

I have just left a meeting of the London District. It was good to see such a full attendance. On the personal side Les. Hilliard, of Fulham, takes over the District Secretaryship from myself, and I look forward with interest to his Officership for he is a really "live" wire with plenty of initiative and ideas. Running the London District is no sinecure, but there is a fine spirit of fellowship which I know Les. will experience as I have done. He is replaced as District Vice-Chairman by Dai Cousins, of Ealing, another "live" wire, and one who will do full justice to the Office.

A preliminary discussion on the Union Rules produced some points of view which will be helpful to the Executive in its consideration of this matter. An intimation that this and other matters of considerable importance would be forthcoming from the Executive for District consideration, prompted the meeting to decide that its next District Meeting on Thursday, November 14th, shall be an all-day affair. *This is to provide members with a full opportunity to properly consider and discuss the Rules revision, the results of the questionnaire and the progress of the Charter. London is also again actively pursuing the question of by-election organisation and procedure to which I referred last month.*

Grand Response

The replies to the questionnaire will be before the Executive when it meets later this month. I cannot do more at this juncture than say "thank you" to members for their excellent response. Only a small handful of defaulters failed to reply, so that we have got now a very valuable survey of the con-

ditions. prevailing. The picture we get, though not as bad as pre-war, is not too happy, and far too many cases of serious uncertainty as to the maintenance of salary payments are revealed. There are, alas, a few bad cases of salary arrears, and I think, too, a number of Agents should be on a

higher scale than they are. *The variety of financial arrangements are another significant feature of the replies. This both in regard to grants from Financial Organisations and Candidates and Members, and also basis of affiliation payments. A wide field for discussion, but not easy of solution!*

Carntyne Labour Party (affiliated to N. Lanark Divisional Labour Party).

.. Certificate of Membership ..

This is to certify that

Not being a member of any political organisation ineligible for affiliation to the Labour Party, and having approved of the Policy and Programme and being prepared to observe the Rules and Constitution, has been enrolled an Individual Member of Carntyne Labour Party.

Date of Initiation

WILLIAM G. WILDE, Chairman.

ANDREW F. ARNOTT, Secretary.

JOHN McEWAN, Membership Secy.

This is a facsimile of the novel Membership Certificate issued to members by the Carntyne Labour Party. It is printed in red on white paper. "I definitely think that a certificate of this nature adds dignity and appeal to the membership drive," says John Taylor, Scottish Secretary of the Labour Party. Here is an idea that might prove popular and effective in other areas.

The November Elections—Some Legal Points

Nomination.

Last day not later than 5 p.m. on the eighth day before the election, Wednesday, October 23rd. Forms can be obtained from the Town Clerk.

Scottish Burghs.—Before 4 p.m. on the Friday immediately preceding the last Tuesday of October, Friday, October 25th.

No person shall sign more than one nomination paper in respect of the same candidate, nor for more than one ward, nor shall he sign more nomination papers than there are vacancies to be filled in the borough or ward as the case may be.

Every candidate must be nominated by two electors as his proposer and seconder, and also in the case of Municipal Boroughs by eight assentors.

Note.—More than one nomination paper should be put in to the R.O. Nomination has been lost through trusting to one paper which proved to be faulty.

Candidate's Consent. (England and Wales). A person shall not be validly nominated unless his consent given in writing on or within one month before the last day of nomination, and attested by one witness is delivered at the place and within the time appointed for the delivery of nomination papers.

A Form of Consent

..... Town

I, the undersigned of hereby consent to my nomination as a candidate at the election of a councillor for (borough) (ward), to be held on the first day of November, 1945.

Dated this day of 1945.

Signed

In the presence of address

Scotland.—The nomination paper provides for the consent of the candidate.

Telegraphed Consent. A candidate who is outside the United Kingdom as a member of the Forces, a seaman, or a war worker abroad, can give his consent to nomination by telegram. His consent need not be attested but the telegram must be sent on or within one month of the last day for nominations and be delivered to the R.O. by or before the last day for nominations.

Withdrawal of a Candidate. Must be by a notice signed by the candidate and attested by one witness and delivered by last nomination day.

Scotland.—The notice is required to be signed by the candidate or his law agent and his two proposers before 4 p.m. on Monday, October 28th.

Nomination in more than one Ward. Candidate must withdraw by notice as above from all wards but one.

Filling up Municipal Nomination Paper. Addresses of proposer, seconder, and assentors are not required, but the omission of the P.D. letter or register number can invalidate the paper. It is held that the number must be correctly given. One Christian name should be signed in full, as one initial is held not to disclose identity. J. Smith may be (John) (James) (Jasper) (Jonathan) Smith. Place of abode is residence not a business address.

The nomination paper may be delivered personally or by post.

Scotland.—The proposer, seconder and five assentors must sign the nomination paper and give their home addresses.

Validity of Nomination Papers. After the expiration of the time for delivery of the nomination papers, the R.O. shall examine them. Ordinarily, the R.O. has no jurisdiction over the qualification of a candidate. He decides on the validity of the nomination paper as a legal form. His decision that a paper is valid cannot be questioned, but if he decides that a paper is invalid the decision can be subject to



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review on an election petition. He notifies the candidate of his decision and publishes the notice of nomination on the following day.

Scotland.—The Town Clerk shall, if the nomination paper is in or as nearly as can be in the form and contains the particulars described, deal with it as valid, but otherwise he shall reject the paper and the same shall be null and void.

Extension of Polling Hours. Where there is one vacancy, one candidate can by notice in writing signed by him request that the poll be kept open until 9 p.m. If there are more vacancies than one in a borough or ward as the case may be, the requests must be sent in by as many candidates as there are vacancies. If there are two Labour candidates in a ward then both must send in notices. Notices must be sent in before 2 p.m. on the sixth day before the poll, i.e., Friday, October 25th.

Scotland.—The Council can extend polling hours by resolution not later than one month before the election.

Appointment of Polling and Counting Agents. Notices must be received by the R.O. at least two clear days before the day of election. The last day is therefore Tuesday, October 29th. Send the notices before this last day if possible. Ascertain from the R.O. how many agents are allowed. The agents must make a declaration of secrecy. The R.O. will supply declaration forms.

Scotland.—Notices must be received one clear day before, but it is wise to send names in earlier.

Election Addresses and Poll Cards. No Purchase Tax. Printed Addresses and Poll Cards, on which spaces only are left for insertion of person's name and address and poll number or voting places, are not subject to purchase tax.

Recount. A candidate or agent may request a recount before the result is declared, but there is no statutory provision for this and consent is at the discretion of the R.O.

Equality of Votes. The R.O. may give a casting vote by word of mouth or in writing. If he does not do so, the double return makes the election void and a new election will follow.

Imprint must appear on all bills, placards and posters.

Flags, Banners and other Marks of Distinction are prohibited.

Candidate's right to free use of Schoolrooms. In effect, Sec. 69 L.G.A., 1933, gives candidates the same claim to the use of public elementary schools as for parliamentary elections. No payment can be claimed for the use of the room, but charges can be made for incidental expense such as light, heat, cleaning, etc.

Committee Rooms. If hired, one for the borough or ward, as the case may be, and one for each 2,000 electors or part thereof, over the first 2,000 in the borough or ward as the case may be. There is no legal limit to the number of lent committee rooms, but for the main ones a valuation figure should be put in the Return.

Loud Speakers on Polling Day. There is no electoral prohibition to prevent a candidate using a loud speaker on the streets on polling day provided he keeps clear of the entrances to polling stations. The question of using them is one for some discretion. If a canvass has been done it is not desirable as its effect is to stir up the opposition voters also. On the other hand, in very strong Labour roads its psychological effect may be good. Give due consideration to the matter for best advantage.

Claims within 14 days. Payments within 21 days. Returns and Declarations within 28 days.

Candidates Abroad. An extended time for declaration and returns may be allowed by the R.O.

Election Returns of Joint Candidates. Each candidate has to put in his own signed declaration, and in order to show he has not exceeded the maximum expenditure allowed, must put in a Return of his own. To put in a Return covering the joint candidates and merely each candidate signing it would not appear to be in order. Each of the candidates must make up a Return based on the allocation of costs but the Returns can be sent in together with the total bills and receipts attached to them. A borough party providing material to candidates can give receipts to them for the proportionate amounts involved.

Illegalities in an Election. If opponents are doing anything illegal, such as using a hired car for conveying voters to the poll, make representation to them at once, and say serious notice will be taken of the offence if it is not immediately stopped. It is of no use going to the R.O. or police. The onus is upon the complainant to take action.

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